

Brown named Engineer of the Year

James T. Brown, branch chief of the Logistics Operations Directorate's Logistics Services Branch, has been named engineer of the year by the Canaveral Council of Technical Societies and Florida Engineering Society.



BROWN

The award was presented at the council's engineering banquet Feb. 24 at the Cocoa Beach Holiday Inn Resort.

Prior to his appointment as branch chief in 1995, Brown served as a technical staff assistant for the Logistics Directorate from 1993 to 1995; as an aerospace engineer at the Johnson Space Center Resident Office at Kennedy Space Center from 1987 to 1993; and as an electronics engineer for NASA's Mission Operations

Directorate at Johnson Space Center from 1984 to 1987.

Brown holds a Ph.D. in industrial engineering from the University of Central Florida, a master's degree in engineering management from the Florida Institute of Technology, and a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Tennessee State University.

He has served as an adjunct faculty member at the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne since 1994.

Other honors Brown has received include the NASA Certificate of Commendation, the Society of Logistics Engineers Specialty Award and the NASA Special Achievement Award. Additionally Brown and Robert Armacost of the University of Central Florida (UCF) have developed a new project scheduling algorithm for which UCF has applied for patent protection.

Launch...

(Continued from Page 1)

dent panel to review the loss of the satellite, said Wil Trafton, acting associate administrator for the Office of Space Flight. The team will be chaired by Kenneth Szalai, director of the Dryden Flight Research Center, Edwards, CA. A preliminary report with recommendations is due to Trafton by mid-May.

Experiments continued, meanwhile, with the United States Microgravity Payload, which is advancing research efforts into development of new materials and processes that could lead to a new generation of computers, electronics and metals.

At press time, Columbia was scheduled to land at KSC's Shuttle Landing Facility at about 7:32 a.m. on March 7.

The combination of unseasonably warm weather, the recent President's Day holiday and the strong European interest in the TSS joint experiment with the

Italian Space Agency, drew more than 24,000 people to KSC for the launch.

Approximately 1,000 employees and their families watched the launch from a new viewing site located at the LC-39 Barge Turn Basin. NASA and contractor employees deserving of special recognition received vehicle passes for the site. Plans are to use the site again for the STS-76 launch scheduled for March 21.

The successful launch of STS-75's seven-member crew was preceded by the Feb. 21 liftoff of the Russian Mir 21 crew, Commander Yuri Onufrienko and Engineer Yuri Usachev, to the space station to relieve astronaut Thomas Reiter of the European Space Agency and Russian cosmonauts Yuri Gidzenko and Sergei Avdeyev, who were scheduled to depart the space station this week. Mission Specialist Shannon Lucid, who trained in Russia, will join that crew when she launches aboard STS-76 this month.

Teacher resource center opens in Puerto Rico

By Joe Green

In late February KSC accomplished a long-sought goal — the establishment of a Regional Teacher Resource Center (RTRC) in Puerto Rico. The first KSC-sponsored RTRC, in Marietta, GA, opened in 1993.

"Teacher groups in Puerto Rico who can get Air National Guard transportation have been flying to KSC for years," according to Education Services Chief Steve Dutczak. "And we send our two Spacemobile lecturer/demonstrators there as often as we can. But Puerto Rico has a population of almost 3.5 million, and more than 2,500 schools. With numbers like those, we needed a local facility that was available to a much larger number of teachers."

All NASA centers, as well as the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and the Wallops Flight Facility, offer teacher resource centers to serve educators in their region. But where a region is large and diverse — KSC serves the Virgin Islands in addition to Florida, Georgia and Puerto

Rico — RTRC's bring NASA educational resources closer to home.

"We are delighted to have a permanent NASA presence in Puerto Rico," said Maria Schwarz, who will help operate the new facility at the University of Puerto Rico in Mayaguez. "The teachers in our local schools are very interested in the space program, but transportation costs are too high to visit the states very often. Now we can supply NASA publications, videos and slides to teachers at very little expense. We think this will create a much stronger interest in science and math in the school systems here."

Plans are already underway to open a subsidiary RTRC in Jayuya, an isolated mountainous province in central Puerto Rico. Other subsidiaries are being considered for the future.

"We can help open the door to good careers for the young people of Puerto Rico," said Dutczak. "And that's what education is all about."

Retire...

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of the retiree's previous organization or functional area.

The program has been developed by NASA to take advantage of the expertise offered by employees eligible for retirement while at the same time saving salary costs and meeting

federally mandated downsizing targets. An estimated 30 percent of the KSC workforce is eligible for early or optional retirement.

The program is effective immediately. The window of opportunity for the "trial" and "phased" retirement expires Sept. 30. For more information, contact the KSC personnel office at 867-2514.



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